

# MOTIVATION AND PROBLEMS OF THE STUDENTS IN CONTINUING STUDY AT ENGLISH GRADUATE PROGRAM IN MAKASSAR

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## ABSTRACT

*This study investigated the motivational background of the students in continuing their study and their problem during their study at English Graduate program. Therefore, the research questions for this study were (1) what were the motivation of the students in continuing their study at English Graduate Program? (2) What were the problems encountered by the students during their study at English Graduate Program? The aims of the study were to find out empirical evidence and information about the motivation of the students and their problems in continuing their study at English graduate program in Makassar.*

*This study applied descriptive qualitative method. This study conducted at English Graduate Program in Makassar. The respondents of this research were graduate students of English Education Program in the fourth semester. The respondents were 40 students. The researcher took the data directly from the source that was by giving an open-ended question. The open-ended question was transcribed and analyzed.*

*The findings of the research were (1) there were five kinds of motivation of the students in continuing their study at English graduate program. They were quality motivation, career motivation, economic motivation, social motivation and family motivation. (2) There were six problems that encountered by the students during their study at English graduate program. They were academic problems, administrative problems, problems with the lecturer, time management problems, financial problems, and facility problem.*

*Keywords: Students' Motivation, Students' Problem, English Graduate Program*

## INTRODUCTION

Continuing education is required as urgent demands for change and improvement of education. Changes are inevitable in the world of education to the development of science has always required being able to face the dynamics of world development. Essentially the science developed in three pillars, namely the realm of ontology, epistemology, and axiology. Based on this aspect, the development of science to the demands of each institution is a reason for science development. Higher education, especially graduate program becomes one of the leading institutions that have a strategic role in the development of science.

English Graduate Program in Makassar was established since 1997 and has graduated many alumni of mainly working as teachers and also lecturers. English Graduate Program in Makassar organized to educate graduated students of English education to master and develop the science of English language in depth and be able to teach it. English Graduate Program in Makassar is expected to develop aspects of learning through a variety of studies and research and can practice it in public life. The expectations become demands according to the needs of today's society. English Graduate Program in Makassar organized to educate

the educators of English professional in the sense of mastering the English language and implement the teaching and learning process of English as a requirement that must be available in the field of education and science development.

The facts show that the number of students in English graduate program in Makassar increased from year to year. It means that English graduate program becomes one of the most favourite department for students who wish to continue their education. There is the reason that becomes the motivation of the students in continuing their study. But during the process of studying sometimes, there are also many problems that will be encountered by the students. Motivation can also allow the students to overcome the problems because it is the force that keeps us going in the face of difficulties and drive us to achieve our goals. That is why the researcher is interested in investigating the motivation of the students and their problems in continuing their study in English graduate program in Makassar.

Widyastuti (2006) stated that the motivation is interpreted as encouragement. So motivation is a force that drives people to behave in the act, which has a specific purpose. Motivation in continuing study divided into four kinds according to Widyastuti (2006), namely the quality motivation, career motivation, economic motivation, and social motivation. Quality motivation is the impulse that arises from a person who wants to improve the quality and ability of self in the field practised so that it can carry out the task properly. Motivation career refers to the impulse that arises in a person to improve personal capacities to achieve the position, the position/career better than ever. Economic Motivation is an impulse arising from within a person to increase their capacities to achieve financial reward he wanted. Social motivation is defined as a drive someone to commit an act with the objective of social value, gain recognition and appreciation of the environment in which a person located.

The purpose of this research is to investigate motivation and problem of the students in continuing their study at English Graduate Program in Makassar. More specifically this research examines the kinds of motivation concerning quality motivation, career motivation, economic motivation, and social motivation, and so on, as well as to explore their problems in continuing their study.

## **RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Definition of Motivation**

The motivation has a strategic role in the activity of one's learning, nobody is learning without motivation, there is no motivation means no learning activities. Motivation comes from the word *motive* that means as the power contained within the individual, which causes the individual to act and act Hamzah (2009:1).

Motivation is the impulse that arises in a person, consciously or unconsciously, to perform an action with a particular purpose, or motivation are efforts that may cause a person or a particular group of people motivated to do something because they need to achieve the goals or gets satisfaction with actions.

Furthermore Widyastuti (2006) stated that the motivation is often interpreted as encouragement. It is the power of soul and body movement to do, so motivation is a power that drives people to behave in the act, which has a specific purpose.

Individual differences in motivation usually refer to differences in goal content (e.g., achievement, affiliation, power, sex, hunger, etc.) and strength or intensity of motivation (Nuttin & Lens, 1985). Low levels of achievement and underachievement are often attributed to low levels of motivation. Parents, teachers and coaches try to increase the strength or quantity of their pupils' and athletes' motivation in an attempt to enhance their persistence and the level of their performances. Empirical evidence made, however, clear that it is also

important to take into account people's quality or type of motivation (Deci & Ryan, 1985). This is because some types of motivation are of a better quality than others.

So It can be concluded that motivation is the reasons behinds our choices and actions or a reason that makes someone want to do something because they want to achieve the goals or gets satisfaction with actions.

## 2. Kinds of Motivation

In this research the kinds of motivation presented by Widyastuti (2006) is divided into four as follows.

### a) Quality Motivation

Quality motivation is the impulse that arises from a person who wants to improve the quality and ability of self in the field practised so that it can carry out the task properly.

### b) Career Motivation

Career motivation defined as the impulse that arises in a person to improve personal capacities in order to achieve the position, the position / career better than ever.

### c) Economic Motivation

Economic Motivation is an impulse arising from within a person to increase their personal capacities in order to achieve financial reward he wanted.

### d) Social Motivation

Social motivation is defined as a drive someone to commit an act with the objective of social value, gain recognition and appreciation of the environment in which a person located.

## 3. Aspects of Motivation

### a. Enforcement power

This aspect indicates that the emergence of a force will be able to encourage people to do something. This force can come from within the individual, the environment and the confidence or strength that is natural. Consciously or unconsciously, in the individual often very strong turbulence to do something with a specific purpose. Turmoil that can come from family, friends, environment, experience, or anything that makes us feel motivated and have the power to do something.

### b. Positive attitude

This aspect showed confidence in a strong individual, self-acceptance is high and always. When people already have forces that drive to do something, then there will be positive thoughts of the driving forces that will direct individuals to have positive attitudes. someone who has a strong incentive to continue their studies to pursue the high cultivate himself with positive thoughts that will strengthen the faith and confidence in individuals that will direct individuals on positive attitudes, as unyielding, hard-working, thinking positive and so forth.

### c. Goal oriented

These aspects indicate that the motivation to provide a goal orientation behaviour to be performed, directed at one that is considered important in the life of the individual. Every individual who wants to continue her studies to a higher level definitely requires preparation really mature to make it happen. One way, the individual must prepare the material / studied diligently to continue the study to a higher level in order to achieve what the goals of the individual.

#### 4. Function of Motivation

Sardiman (2005) states that there are three main functions of motivation. first, to encourage people to do something in achieving its objectives so that motivation can be illustrated as the engine in the vehicle to move if the owner wanted to wear it to go somewhere. As well as the man who can move when there is a push to achieve something.

The second function is to determine motivation toward action that leads to the goals to be achieved when the individual was motivated to have a graduate degree, then people know the true and what steps should be taken to achieve its goals. Consciously and unconsciously taste motivation thereby bringing individuals to go to the individual objectives to be achieved.

Last function of motivation according Sardiman (2005), is a jury responsible for selecting the behavior of individuals in achieving its objectives. In other words, is a personal detective motivation for the individual itself where he can detect which things should be done to achieve its goals and where it should be discarded because they interfere with his goal.

### RESEARCH METHOD

This study applied a descriptive qualitative method to describe and analyze motivation and problems of the students in continuing study at English graduate program in Makassar. The data analyzed was taken in form of open-ended questions.

This research conducted at English Graduate Program in Makassar. The researcher applied random sampling technique. Random sampling was presented by distributing and giving a paper of an open-ended questions to the students. The students who got the paper become the respondents or sample.

This research used primary data. According to Moelong (2006), Primary data is data obtained directly from the source. Here the researcher took the data directly from the source that was by giving an open-ended question. An open-ended question refers to a question or problem which has more than one correct answer and more than one strategy to obtain this answer. According to Suherman et al (2003: 123) the problem is formulated to have a multi-correct answer called an incomplete problem or also called open-ended problem or open question. Students who are faced with open-ended problems is not to get an answer but to emphasize on how to arrive at an answer. The open-ended question is the instrument which is used to get data about the motivation of the students and their problems. The open-ended questions were trascribed.

### FINDINGS

The findings of this research deal with the motivation of the students and their problems in continuing their study at English Graduate Program in Makassar. The result of the data findings found that there were many kinds of motivations and problems in continuing their study at English Graduate Program in Makassar. In the further interpretation of data analysis were given below.

#### 1. Motivations of The Students in Continuing Study

Motivation in continuing study is the reasons behinds the students' choices and actions or a reason that makes the students want to continue their study because they want to achieve the goals or gets satisfaction with actions. There were many kinds of students' motivation in continuing their study at English Graduate Program, they were :

a. Quality Motivation

Quality motivation is the impulse that arises from a person who wants to improve the quality and ability of self in the field practised so that it can carry out the task properly. In this research, the researcher found that most of the students have quality motivation in continuing their study at English graduate program. It can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- To enrich the knowledge of English
- To improve the ability of English
- To be an expert in English language education
- To be a professional English teacher / lecturer

b. Career Motivation

Career motivation refers to the impulse that arises in a person to improve personal capacities in order to achieve the position, the position / career better than ever. And the other motivation that the researcher found in this research was career motivation. It can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- To be an English lecturer
- To get a good job and career
- To get a better position

c. Economic Motivation

Economic motivation is an impulse arising from within a person to increase their personal capacities in order to achieve reward he wanted. The third motivation that the researcher found in this research was economic motivation. It can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- To get a higher salary
- To get a better salary

d. Social Motivation

Social motivation is defined as a drive someone to commit an act with the objective of social value, gain recognition and appreciation of the environment in which a person located. In this research, the researcher found that one of the motivation of the students in continuing their study is social motivation. It can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- To get more confidence in the social society
- To be proud in the social society.
- To get a better social status.

e. Family Motivation

Family motivation is a motivation that comes from support provided by family members such as encouragement of parents, relatives and other relatives. In this research family motivation also become the students motivation in continuing study. It can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- Motivation from parent
- Motivation from father
- Motivation from brother

2. The Problems of the students in continuing their study

The problem in continuing study is something that has to be solved or an unpleasant or undesirable condition encountered by English graduate students that need to be corrected. The condition here related to the student's weakness, and can also relate to the environment that is not profitable for him. All of the problems is something that must be broke down by the students and also by the university official in order to make the learning process at English graduate program can run well and in accordance with the goals to be accepted.

There were some problems that commonly encountered by students in English graduate program, namely:

a. Academic Problem

This is one of the most common problems faced by English graduate program. This problem commonly found in the learning process by the students. They are; incapability of the students to learn independently, students difficulty in understanding the course and literature materials, difficulties in doing assignments, improper study habits, difficulty in presenting tasks, create reports, papers resume, etc. Academic problems can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- The lots of assignment and presentations in the same time
- Difficult to find the material source from the internet
- The deadline of the assignments.

b. Administrative Problem

Administrative problems are usually related to how the service provided by the academic bureaucracy for the students. This problem arises because of administrative services that are considered less appropriate and adequate. Some of the administrative problems include service provided is so slow, less friendly and make some people feel saturated by the hostile attitude of the academic personnel. The lack of coordination between academic staff and lecturer is also the obstacles for the students in the process of score checking. Administrative problems can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- The input of the score is often delayed
- The administrative employee who is not humble, not friendly, and less smile.
- The difficulties in making the academic letter.

c. Problems with Lecturer

Problems with the lecturers also become the most common problem encountered by the students. Indeed, the interaction of lecturers and students are not as harmonious and easy as imagined. For example, the dissatisfaction of students to the lecturer who "not clear" in the transfer of knowledge, lack of transparency in awarding scores, discipline excessive/rigid (in the popular phrase "killer"), and the monotonous way in teaching that makes the students feel bored. Unfortunately, these conflicts sometimes stagnate or not resolved because between students and lecturer consistent with their opinion. Problems with lecturer can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- The strict or killer lecturer.
- The monotonous way in teaching.
- The lecturer is not on time.
- The lecturer sometimes changes him/her schedule.
- The difficulties in consulting or supervising thesis.

d. Time Management

A problem with time management is also a problem experienced by many students. There are some of the lecturers who change the schedule which makes the students should re-arrange their schedule and will disrupt the schedule for students who worked as a part-time job. Many students are forced to work to finance their studies. A selection of work by students is a part time job, outside the college. But it raises a problem for the student. This make the students get the difficulties in arranging their time, so automatically their study may also be disrupted. Time management problems can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- Managing time between teaching and studying
- Managing time between studying and other responsibility.

e. Financial Problem

Financial problems experienced by students are one of the classic problems. Many students are experiencing economic difficulties because remittances are late, not enough money or they cannot arrange their financial because of the many needs that must be paid as payment of fees, boarding, food, shopping items, refreshing, books, photocopies etc. Financial problems can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- The student has to pay her living cost.
- Running out of money because many needs.
- Transfer money from parents is late.

f. Facility Problem

Facility problem is related to all sorts of equipment, completeness, and objects used by lecturer and students to facilitate the teaching and learning process. Educational facilities can be classified into two types. First, the facilities that directly used for teaching and learning process, such as classroom, library, and laboratory. Second, the facility that is not used for teaching and learning process, but directly support the learning process. Examples of these second facilities are office, administration office, lecturer room, restroom, cafeteria, information centre, wifi, etc. Facility problems can be seen based on the respondents' answers as follows :

- Bad Internet (wifi) connection.
- Bad Air conditioning (AC).
- There is no a standard library facilities.
- There is no computer lab.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the findings and the discussion, it can be concluded that There are five kinds of motivation of the students in continuing their study at English graduate program. They are quality motivation, career motivation, economic motivation, social motivation and family motivation.

There are six problems that encountered by the students during their study at English graduate program. They are: academic problems, administrative problems, problems with the lecturer, time management problems, financial problems, and facility problem.

Based on Motivation and problems of the students in continuing study above, the researcher suggests that (1) the students of English graduate program to maintain their

motivation in order to solve all possible problems at English graduate program and reach the goal, (2) the students who want to continue their study at English graduate program to prepare themselves not only about the knowledge but also all aspects that can support the process of their study at English graduate program, (3) the lecturers at English graduate program give a professional competence in order to make the process of teaching and learning more enjoyable and interesting for the students, (4) for the institutional bureaucracy in order to provide good service and facilities so that students are easy to carry out the educational process.

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